

During her internship, Amy served as an invaluable member of my District Office team. On numerous occasions she effectively assisted my Spanish-speaking constituents. In addition to her constituent-service skills, Amy acted as a mentor to new interns. Her warmth, ability to relate to people, and knowledge of public policy issues were evident. Amy effortlessly and ably engaged in political discussions and it became clear that Amy was indeed wiser than her years.

More than anything else, Amy loved spending time with her family and friends. She was a warm and loving daughter, sister, and friend. She was intelligent, compassionate and wanted to find a way to make the world a better place for everyone she encountered. Amy was a terrific athlete and a fierce competitor on the tennis court, and she applied this mentality to all areas of her life. When confronted with a terrible illness, she fought valiantly and she never lost hope that she would beat the disease. Amy was a selfless and caring individual who never wanted to burden others with concerns about her health. She never allowed her illness to change who she was; she remained optimistic and upbeat throughout her life. She wished to be remembered for the person she was, not the illness she endured.

Although Amy's years on this planet were short, her life, nevertheless, was rich. And for all those who had the privilege of meeting or knowing Amy, our lives were made richer as a result. I offer my deepest condolences to Joel, Linda, Diana and to the rest of Amy's family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

HONORING PAM HEAVENS FOR HER TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WILL-GRUNDY CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, this fall Pam Heavens celebrates her twentieth year as Executive Director of the Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living. On behalf of the 11th Congressional District of Illinois, I would like to commend Pam for her years of selfless service on behalf of disabled Illinoisans.

As Executive Director, Pam has fought on behalf of thousands of disabled Will and Grundy County residents. The Center serves disabled citizens young and old, including our brave veterans. By offering services ranging from the Low Vision Loan Center to the Home Ownership Program, the Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living helps people with disabilities achieve their goals.

Pam has successfully led the Center through challenging times. The Center has increased services in the midst of a financial climate that has forced many organizations to cut services as they lose important funding sources.

Aside from her duties running the Center, Pam has worked with non-profits and governmental agencies at the local and state level to improve the lives of disabled persons. For example, through the Accessible Cities Alliance, Pam worked to ensure disabled consumers

had access to local businesses through such efforts as the creation of accessible indoor walkways and the construction of wheelchair ramps.

Pam knows firsthand the importance of fighting for disability rights because she lives with cerebral palsy. Despite this challenge, Pam routinely works a sixty-hour work week on behalf of disabled individuals. Pam's dedication and perseverance should serve as an inspiration to all of us.

TRIBUTE TO MIDLAND DOW BOYS TENNIS TEAM

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the team members of the Midland Dow High School Boys Tennis Team. They have represented the town of Midland well with their perseverance and athleticism, and we are very proud of their accomplishments.

The Chargers won the Division Two Boys State Tennis Championship on Saturday, November 17, 2009, after defeating Battle Creek-Lakeview High School: 30-23. This win gives Midland Dow their first Boys Tennis state championship since 1984.

Additionally, this Chargers team was the embodiment of both teamwork and determination. Led by Coach Terry Schwartzkopf, these boys were also models of sportsmanship and set good examples on and off the court.

Team members include: Juan Guerra, Alekzander Davila, Santiago Guerra, Jonathan Gurnee, J.P. Gurnee, Jon Templeman, Austin Woody, Kevin Winegar, Jacob Poliskey, Nate Karsten, Brandon LaFreniere, Alex Haslam, David Read, and Scott Kendall.

I am honored today to recognize the Midland Dow Boys Tennis Team for their accomplishments, and congratulate them on their state championship.

HONORING ANGEL TORRES

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Angel Torres, distinguished journalist and member of my South Florida community, for receiving the 2009 National Award for Journalism given by the National Journalists Association of Cuba in Exile. It is with great pride that I recognize his exemplary work and dedication to sports and journalism throughout the years. Angel, born in La Havana, Cuba, always shared a great passion and interest for baseball. He started playing in the Free Amateur Tournaments of the Stadium with San Pedro and later became manager-player in the Winter Amateur Championships of Octavio Diviñó at Arroyo Naranjo supervising Nebraska, where he received a medal for his distinguished handwork of the immortal Martín Dihigo.

Torres graduated from the Cuban-American Institute and the English Special Center at Jesús del Monte in 1947. By 1952 he grad-

uated of Broadcasting and Journalism sponsored by the National Broadcasting School of Cuba in Radio Progreso. Throughout his sterling service to journalism, he wrote commentaries on sports and jazz for numerous programs like "Pequeños Conjuntos de Grandes Músicos" and "Bandas Innovadoras de Jazz", among many others. After arriving to the United States this inspiring journalist became the only Latin-American and Cuban author with five books in the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, New York. His sports literature served as a renewed hope for Cubans in exile to remember and restart Cuban baseball in the veteran games in New Jersey and Miami. At the same time his work created awareness about Cuban baseball players and about the extinct Professional Cuban Baseball League. As a journalist and member of the Cuban community, Angel Torres was presented in January 28, 2007 by the Patronato José Martí in California, with the most prestige recognition to a Cuban in exile, the White Rose of the commemoration to Apostle José Martí.

Once again, I would like to express how proud I am of Angel for his dedication to journalism, baseball and the Cuban community. His legacy in sports and journalism will serve as an example for our community and as inspiration for everyone to pursue their goals and dreams with commitment and passion.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

Against the counsel of the State Department and others in Washington's foreign policy establishment, President Reagan uttered these six words standing at the Brandenburg Gate June 12, 1987—words that marked his presidency and defined an era.

Former Soviet spy Whittaker Chambers famously said when he defected that he believed he was joining the right side by rejecting communism, but that he was leaving "the winning side for the losing side."

Reagan however, who was himself indelibly shaped by Chambers' account of his defection in the historic book *Witness*, always believed he was on the winning side.

Unbothered by those who cautioned that he would offend the Soviets, Reagan, the eternal optimist, felt compelled to issue this challenge to Gorbachev believing what seemed to be unimaginable at the time—that one day the wall would in fact fall.

Erected in 1961 the Berlin Wall was an enduring symbol of communism—a physical manifestation of the divide between East and West, free and captive.

With rapt attention, many Americans gathered around their televisions 20 years ago as scenes emerged of East Berliners pouring across the border, tearfully embracing strangers, and raising glasses of champagne as they rejoiced with West Berliners in their newfound liberty—the free world rejoiced with them.

For decades an epic struggle had been underway between two vastly different